

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A media handling device comprising:
a frame;
5 a media tray mountable to the frame for pivotal movement between a first position and a second position relative to the frame; and
a damper disposed on the frame and configured for maintaining frictional engagement with the media tray.
- 10 2. The media handling device of claim 1 wherein the damper comprises a non-fluidic member configured to impart a controlled sliding motion of the media tray between the first position and the second position.
- 15 3. The media handling device of claim 1 wherein the frame comprises:
a pair of first protrusions with each first protrusion disposed on opposite sides of the frame and at least one second protrusion configured for removably mounting the damper on the frame in a position adjacent one of the first protrusions of the frame.
- 20 4. The media handling device of claim 3 wherein the media tray comprises a pair of securing holes disposed on opposite sides of the media tray with each of the securing holes configured for pivotal mounting on each of respective first protrusions of the frame to enable the media tray for pivotal movement relative to the frame.
- 25 5. The media handling device of claim 1 wherein the damper comprises a slot configured for slidably mounting the damper on the at least one second protrusion of the frame.
- 30 6. The media handling device of claim 3 wherein the at least one second protrusion comprises a pair of second protrusions and the damper comprises a pair of dampers, with the second protrusions disposed on opposite sides of the

frame adjacent each of the first protrusions and with each of the dampers mounted on the respective second protrusions.

7. The media handling device of claim 1 wherein the media tray comprises at least one finger and the damper comprises a curved contact portion adapted to slidably receive the at least one finger of the media tray wherein the damper is positioned on the frame adjacent the point of pivotal mounting between the media tray and the frame to maintain frictional engagement between the at least one finger of the media tray and the damper.

10

8. The media handling device of claim 7 wherein the at least one finger has a length substantially the same as a distance between the point of pivotal mounting and the curved contact surface of the damper.

9. The media handling device of claim 7 wherein the media tray comprises:
a body;
an inner end from which the at least one finger extends generally perpendicular relative to the body of the media tray; and
a securing portion disposed on the inner end and including a hole configured for pivotally mounting the media tray on a protrusion of the frame.

20

10. The media handling device of claim 1 wherein the damper is made of an elastomer material and the media tray is made of a thermoplastic material.

11. The media handling device of claim 1 wherein the damper comprises:
a first contact surface configured to maintain the media tray in its second position relative to the frame;
a second contact surface having a concave surface and configured to enable sliding movement between the concave surface and a finger of the media tray between its first position and the second position; and
a third contact surface configured to maintain the media tray in its first position relative to the frame.

30

12. The media handling device of claim 11 wherein the second contact surface of the damper has a radius of curvature that varies to maintain a substantially uniform velocity of the media tray as it pivots between the first position and the second position; and

wherein the first contact surface and the third contact surface of the damper each comprise a flat surface that forms an obtuse angle relative to the second contact surface.

13. The media handling device of claim 1 comprising at least one of a printer, a photocopier, a facsimile machine, and a multifunction printer.

14. A damper for a media tray pivotally mountable to a printer frame, the damper comprising:

a member having a generally concave contact surface; and
a securing mechanism configured for mounting the damper on a printer frame so that the contact surface is positioned for frictional engagement with the media tray between a first position and a second position relative to the printer frame.

15. The damper of claim 14 wherein the member comprises a non-fluidic, non-mechanistic member made from an elastomeric material.

16. A media handling device comprising:
means for enabling pivotal movement of a media tray relative to a frame of the media handling device; and

means, separate from the means for enabling pivotal movement, for frictionally engaging the media tray to control the velocity of pivotal movement of the media tray relative to the frame.

17. The media handling device of claim 16 wherein the means for frictionally engaging comprises:

a non-fluidic damper disposed on the printer frame adjacent the means for pivotal movement to enable the non-fluidic damper to engage a portion of the media tray during pivotal movement of the media tray relative to the printer frame.

5

18. The media handling device of claim 17 comprising at least one of a printer, a photocopier, a facsimile machine, and a multifunction printer.

19. A method of controlling motion of a media tray of a printer, the method comprising:

10

mounting the media tray for pivotal movement relative to the printer frame between a first position and a second position; and

dampening the pivotal movement with frictional engagement between the media tray and the printer frame.

15

20. The method of claim 19 wherein dampening the pivotal movement comprises:

positioning a portion of the media tray to be in sliding contact with a concave curved surface associated with the printer frame.

20